

# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 1116

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Chapter 1116

Standing outside the villa, Serena allowed her tears to fall in silence, a melancholy smile tugging at the corners of her mouth.

Tonight was Christmas Eve, and she had taken a twelve-hour flight just to reconnect with her family. She knew her parents had kept a secret from her, bringing Arabella to visit their grandmother and uncle.

She knew she was not welcome here.

She knew everyone would rather not see her.

But she came anyway, driven by an affection built over eighteen years.

She wanted to bridge the gap between her and her parents, her uncle, her grandmother.

But as she rushed to the villa, she heard laughter and the sound of merry songs coming from the garden.

In the distance, a group of Santa Clauses and dozens of elves were singing and dancing around a girl.

There was no need to guess who that girl was! Serena had planned to let bygones be bygones and join the fun, pretending her heart wasn't breaking. But then, the fireworks that burst into the night sky, each word they spelled, deeply pierced her heart.

"Welcome home."

"Merry Christmas Eve."

"Happy Christmas."

"Bella, be happy."

"Stay healthy and safe."

Every single word was a sign of care and blessings for Arabella!

Not a single word was meant for her!!

Everyone centered around Arabella, trying their best to make her happy.

Nobody cared about the feelings of her, the adopted daughter!

As the fireworks painted the night sky, they formed marigolds, Arabella's favourite flower.

Everyone in the family knew Arabella loved marigolds. The brothers had even planted a bunch of them at Reflections Villa.

In the night sky, the marigolds became a sea of flowers, with a long-haired girl standing in the midst of them.

In the finale of the fireworks display, there were scenes of five brothers and a sister. One brother holding an umbrella for his sister, one bending down to tie his sister's shoelaces, one bending over to make his sister laugh, one presenting his sister a bouquet of flowers, and another holding a sword as if to protect his sister.

This scene deeply hurt Serena.

Did all her brothers only see one sister??

What about her, Serena??

She wasn't allowed to be part of their lives, and now, she didn't even have a place in the fireworks display??

Tears once again rolled down Serena's face, her smile growing more bitter and her heart heavier.

Her parents and brothers had always reassured her that they considered her part of the family and would treat her the same as before.

But now, everyone had kept her in the dark while they secretly prepared such an extravagant surprise for Arabella, leaving her alone at home.

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# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 1117

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Chapter 1117

How could they?!

How could they be so unfair?!

Was the eighteen years of affection all just a sham??

Could it really not compare to the blood relation??

It must have been Uncle Sampson's idea. There wasn't a single servant in the garden, and they must have gone inside to dine, joining in the gaiety.

Serena pushed open the intricately carved gate, alone walking in the garden.

She remembered, when she was in elementary school, one winter break, she had come here.

Just like now, it was snowing then, spotless snow flakes drifting endlessly. The garden was so vast that she couldn't see the end of it. She ran around in the garden for a long time, even throwing snowballs at her uncle.

Her uncle would play along, smiling gently, looking at her with indulgent eyes.

That moment was so beautiful, all the maids were smiling, saying that Sampson liked her the most, and she was the only one in the world who dared to throw snowballs at him.

Another year, in the autumn, she came with her parents to visit her uncle, picking numerous precious flowers and plants from the garden.

Back then she didn't know the value of those plants. She just thought they were pretty. Louisa scolded her, but Sampson indulgently said, 'It's nothing. As long as Serena likes them, the whole garden, even the whole villa can be given to her:

Everything in the past was so beautiful, and it was heart-wrenching to think about it.

At that moment, a few maids passed by in the garden.

"Tonight's dinner was really lavish. Ms. Collins is so lucky to have so many family members dote on her."

"Even the gift wrapping paper was studded with crystals, it must have been expensive, right?"

"Mr. and Mrs. Collins were so generous, a private island and the world's largest castle-themed amusement park!"

"Ms. Collins' brothers are generous also, making a special trip to give her a surprise and such costly gifts."

"There were private yacht and private plane. David even gave away his favorite luxury cars, three in total."

"The villa is also quite valuable. I heard it ranks among the world's luxury home."

Serena laughed even more bitterly, more painful. Tears streamed down her face, and her heart felt as if it was pierced by a thousand arrows. The more she laughed, the more she wanted to cry; the more she laughed, the more she felt on the verge of collapse.

When her parents were giving Arabella such expensive gifts, did they ever think of their daughter they had raised for eighteen years?

When Sampson was giving gifts to please Arabella, did he ever think of his other niece?

And her brothers, usually tied up to work, all managed to find time today just to give Arabella a surprise?

As for Hans, a stiff and cold workaholic like him wouldn't make exceptions for anyone. Even if he didn't have work on Christmas Eve, his strict routines would never allow him to be here, let alone fooling around with the other brothers.

"Let alone the value of the gifts, just the fact that these brothers could spare the time and fly here to give Ms.

Collins a surprise, to sing and dance for her, to prepare fireworks for her, these movements are really touching!"

"Isn't that the truth? Having such brothers is truly wonderful. My brother only ever cheats me out of my allowance, and whenever he does something wrong, he would throw me under the bus because he knows our parents dote on me and wouldn't scold me.

"After all, this is Ms. Collins' first time visiting Sampson's place, and her first time celebrating Christmas Eve and Christmas, it should be a grand event, shouldn't it?"

Tears streamed down Serena's face once again, her smile more bitter. She looked more heartbroken.

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# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 1118

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Chapter 1118

Neither on Christmas Eve nor on Christmas did she receive a gift from her uncle.

Considering all the shopping her uncle did with Arabella, she was trying to manage not to feel aggrieved.

But did recognizing his biological niece mean that he could abandon her, his adopted niece whom he had cared for eighteen years, once and for all?

She heard from the maid that her brothers even sang and danced for Arabella.

Not to mention the others, even Hans, it was totally out of character for him!



What kind of magic did Arabella possess, to change Hans so completely that he's willing to do such foolish things!

How did she do it??

That mom and dad would don Santa suits to amuse Arabella didn't surprise her at all.

Yet her uncle, usually so dignified, was willing to go along with it.

She was so jealous, so angry!!!

At the dinner table, Arabella said, "I'm full. You guys enjoy."

"Dont, don't go." David grabbed the hem of her dress, "The concert I invited you to is in four days. You'll come, right?"

"Let go, don't ruin her dress!" Clark swatted David's hand away, "What's so great about your lousy concert? Bella could learn more by studying in the lab."

"It's called warming up, RAP dopamine, not lousy!" David corrected him, "And if this dress can be ruined so easily, it must be the material!"

"Bella, he's saying the material of the dress you designed isn't good." Chasel deliberately added fuel to the fire.

"What? Bella designed this?" David's eyes widened as he took a closer look, "I knew it. How could there be such a beautiful

dress, from the moment I saw this dress. I knew, the person who designed it must be very talented, very assertive, very creative."

"Well, isn't this a lively scene."

At that moment, a melancholy voice came from outside the door.

Everyone looked towards the voice, their expressions a mix of surprise and disbelief.

"Serena, how come you're here?"

Before David could finish his sentence, Serena put on a smile and retorted, "Why, should I not be here? Did my presence spoil the fun?"

"What David meant was, you didn't give us a heads up. I could have sent a car for you." Sampson immediately ordered

someone, "Bring an extra chair and set of utensils. Serena, you haven't had dinner right? Come join us." Serena's gaze scanned everyone in the room, finally landing on Arabella.

Arabella's eyes were as calm as ever, no surprise, no unease, just looking at her peacefully.

For the first time in her life, Serena didn't put on a show in front of everyone, didn't sweetly call out "Bella", because she didn't feel the need to humble herself before Arabella anymore.

The maid brought a chair. Serena sat down, pouring herself a glass of wine.

“Serena.” Sampson was about to stop her from drinking.

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# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 1119

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Chapter 1119

But Serena chuckled, “It's okay. I'm eighteen now.

This toast is for my mom and dad, my uncle

Sampson, my brothers, and

Arabella, my sister, and to myself. Merry Christmas Eve and Christmas to us all.”

She drained her glass in one go, setting it down gracefully as if nothing had happened.

But those eyes of hers, they looked even brighter than usual, as if they had been washed by tears.

"Serena, it's not what you think." Louisa wanted to tell her that Arabella had come here to treat a patient at a friend's request, unexpectedly running into her grandmother and uncle.

And they had come to visit their mother, not expecting to see Arabella here.

But Serena just smiled, "Mom, I didn't misunderstand anything. There's no need to explain. I was just bored, because Martin had some work to do and needed to make a trip to Lidaria, so I came with him."

"You mean, Martin is outside? Now?" Kenneth was about to get up to invite him in.

"I asked him to drop me at the door and told him to leave"

"How can you not invite him in for dinner when he's already at the doorstep? He could sit for a while before leaving." Kenneth felt somewhat remiss in his hospitality.

But Serena just laughed, looking gracefully charming, "I didn't even know that you were having dinner here, let alone Martin. It's

okay, he had some work to do anyway. Besides, we already celebrated Christmas Eve and Christmas at home."

"It's good that you celebrated together." Kenneth nodded repeatedly, but felt a little uncomfortable. It seemed like his daughter was blaming them for having a family reunion and forgetting about her.

"Let's not talk about it now. Serena has been on the plane for twelve hours. She must be starving. Come, have some food."

Sampson put some into Serena's bowl.

Serena looked at the leftover food on the table, her smile deepening, "Thank you, uncle Sampson."

"These are practically untouched.' Sampson put down his utensils and ordered again, "Prepare some more dishes: "No need, uncle Sampson. These are enough for me."

"It's okay. They'll get it done pretty soon.' Sampson said, not forgetting to urge the staff, "Try to be quick."

"It's Christmas Eve. Let the staff have some fun. I've been traveling all day. I don't think I'm able to eat much."

Everyone could tell she was unhappy. Arabella stood up, "I'll go to my room."

"Wait, Bella, have you had enough? You haven't finished the soup." Louisa blurted out.

“And your uncle has prepared some shows.”  
Kenneth kept on, but felt that it was inappropriate to say that at the moment, so he stopped.

“I'm full.” Arabella had wanted to leave before Serena arrived. She wanted to prepare some gifts for the elders and her brothers before they left.

She hadn't prepared anything before. Now she wanted to go back to her room, not knowing whether she would make it.

Serena thought Arabella was declaring war on her. She smiled and said, “Bella, you're not upset because I'm here, are you? If that's the case, then I won't eat from here. I'll leave now.”

“Serena, what nonsense are you talking about?”  
Chasel spoke up, “Why would Bella think that way?”

“I'm just going back to my room to get gifts. Don't overthink it.” Arabella left the dining area, leaving a cold silhouette for everyone.

Serena felt even more indignant. Why, after everything, didn't Arabella feel at least a bit guilty?

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# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 1120

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Chapter 1120

She was basking in the affection of her parents, her uncle, and her brothers.

Had she ever considered that across the vast ocean, there was a sister in name only, alone without any family?

Even when her sister came here, she still remained unbothered, not even showing a hint of kindness.

Where was her conscience??

At that moment, David, feigning drunkenness, stumbled to his feet, "I'm going to wash my face."

"When I arrived, you are sober. How did you get drunk so quickly?"

"It must be the alcohol."

"You don't want to see me, right?" Serena asked, her smile constant but oppressive, "Did you give the concert tickets to Bella?"

David was taken aback. How did she know? Had she been giving Bella a hard time?

Initially, he didn't invite Serena along because he was worried she would overthink things, assuming that everyone was revolving around Bella, neglecting her, not valuing her.

Now, his worst fears were coming true.

"Serena, over the years, David has given you plenty of tickets. Bella just returned to this family. It's not unreasonable for him to

invite her to a concert, is it?" Chasel chimed in.

Serena's smile deepened.

Yeah, if David hadn't sneakily taken those tickets from her to give to Arabella, it wouldn't have been an issue.

But what upset her was that David told her there were no tickets, then secretly gave them to Arabella. Wasn't that excessive??

"Do you think I'm wrong?" Serena asked, her smile innocent but everyone felt she had changed. She was no longer the Serena they knew.

She had become somewhat distant.



At that moment, an underling briskly walked in, sensing the tense atmosphere, he wisely retreated to one side.

"What's the matter?" Sampson sat in his dining chair, still exuding an air of control. No one could tell what he was thinking.

"Sir, the 15% share transfer, a Rolls Royce, a Koenigsegg, ten downtown shops have all been transferred to Ms. Collins' name."

This was the gift Darlene's father offered to Arabella as an apology.

But to Serena, it sounded like her uncle had given 15% of his shares, two luxury cars, and ten shops to Arabella!!

Not only did her brothers favor Arabella, but it seemed like her uncle was also playing favorites. Despite their constant assurances of considering her as family, in reality, they only favored Arabella!

"Also there are two more cars, a Pagani, a Bugatti, three villas, and another share transfer, all in Ms. Collins' name."

This was the compensation Angela's father gave to Arabella.

But to Serena, it sounded incredibly sarcastic, as if they were extravagant gifts from her uncle to Arabella.

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